

5. REDNECKED GREBE *PODICEPS GRISEIGENA*
(BODDAERT) AGAIN SIGHTED IN WEST
PAKISTAN

With reference to our sighting of the Rednecked Grebe (1967), it is interesting to record that two birds of this species were sighted on Nammal Lake in the Punjab Salt Range on September 24, 1967. They were studied at a hundred yards range through a powerful telescope. One was in almost full summer plumage while the other was half into winter plumage though still having white cheeks and throat.

It is interesting to note that this species was first recorded in Afghanistan on September 17, 1966 (one bird in summer plumage) at Kargah Lake near Kabul (Niethammer 1967). Also two grebes in winter plumage believed to be of this species had been seen at the same place on February 10, 1966 (loc. cit.).

WILDFOWL SURVEY,

11-F GULBERG,

POST BAG 704,

LAHORE, WEST PAKISTAN,

March 8, 1968.

C. D. W. SAVAGE

REFERENCES

NIETHAMMER, VON G. & NIETHAMMER, J. (1967): Neunachweis für Afghanistans Vogelwelt. *Journal für Ornithologie* 108, Heft 1, (1967).

HOLMES, J. R. S., ROBERTS, T. J. &

SAVAGE, C. D. W. (1967): Rednecked Grebe *Podiceps griseigena* (Boddaert) sighted in West Pakistan. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 64(3): 555-557.

6. COTTON TEAL *NETTAPUS COROMANDELIANUS*
(GMELIN) AND WATER SNAKE

On January 4, 1968, at about 5 p.m. in the evening I visited the village pond at Kihim (Taluka Alibag, Kolaba District). It is a comparatively small pond, circular in shape, with a diameter of perhaps a hundred yards. It contains some weeds all round and a great many white water-lilies. There was a variety of bird life on it, including a couple of jacanas, dabchicks, coots and a few sandpipers. There were also 5 or 6 whistlers and 4 cotton teals.

Watching the cotton teal, I found them playing about with something that swam in the water. Using my binoculars (Zeiss, Deltrintem, 8 by 30); I saw a water snake swimming round to each one of them, and as they ducked or swam away, he went to the others in turn. He made almost a full circle and then disappeared.

I wonder if any of your readers has observed wildfowl playing about with water snakes in this fashion; and whether they fraternize with any living things other than their own species.

BOMBAY,

A. A. A. FYZEE

January 24, 1968.

7. EXTENSION OF RANGE OF THE LARGE INDIAN KITE *MILVUS MIGRANS LINEATUS* (GRAY)

Ripley in the SYNOPSIS (1961, p. 43) refers to the Large Indian Kite [*Milvus migrans lineatus* (Gray)] as wintering in the plains, but does not indicate its southern limits. It has been known to occur around Bombay, and Koelz (1942; *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 43:29) obtained 3 females (wings 459, 491, 510) at Londa near Castle Rock, North Kanara, between 7 January and 13 March 1938.

A few years ago, the Virus Research Centre at Poona sent to the Society a number of bird skins obtained in Mysore. We now notice that they include a male (wing 503) of this form obtained at Annandapuram, Shimoga District, Mysore, on 22 February 1960, by P. K. Rajagopalan of the Virus Research Centre.

Though North Kanara is now in Mysore, the present record is a small southward extension of the known range of this bird which is not included in Sálím Ali's BIRDS OF MYSORE.

BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,
HORNBILL HOUSE,
SHAHID BHAGAT SINGH ROAD, BOMBAY,
April 27, 1968.

HUMAYUN ABDULALI
J. G. NAIR

8. THE CHICK OF THE RED SPURFOWL *GALLOPERDIX SPADICEA* (GMELIN)

(With a plate)

As the chick of the Red Spurfowl *Galloperdix spadicea* (Gmelin), does not appear to have been described, the following may be of interest:—

On the evening of 20 May 1968, while we were walking home from Dhobi's Waterfall, Mahableshwar, 4000', Western Ghats, one of the boys (Azeem Sheikh) in the party drew my attention to a bird lying among dry leaves in the gutter by the side of the road. An examination revealed two downy chicks, obviously of a game bird, lying on their sides and kicking in the air. When picked up they